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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

## INFORMATION REPORT

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY Bulgaria**CONFIDENTIAL**DATE DISTR 17 March 1948

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Bulgarian Materiel, Fortifications  
and AirfieldsNO. OF PAGES 2

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2. The Soviets intend to modernize the armament of the satellites by replacing it with their own materiel. This new policy is being put into practice first in Bulgaria and is borne out by the following instances:

- a. When the Soviets withdrew from Bulgaria the materiel of the Fourth Armored Division and of the Fifth Air Corps was left behind and was immediately taken over by the Bulgarian Army.
- b. The Russians have given the Bulgarians 40 tanks, of which eight were of the Joseph Stalin III type and twelve were "T.34".

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- c. A vast quantity of Russian railroad materiel, which was transported secretly under cover at night, has been distributed in the regions of Sofia, Kusanlik and Karlovo.

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- d. New anti-aircraft installations of Russian manufacture have been made in the regions of Plevna and Telis, replacing former German defenses. Entrance to these zones has been forbidden to the public.

- e. The Russian 12th Artillery Unit left four of its ten pieces in Bulgaria when it withdrew. These pieces are truck-drawn and of 9.98 cm and 15.5 cm caliber.

3. The system of fortifications of Momchilgrad and of Chirpan and of the surrounding heights has been extended beyond these cities. With the exception of a few Pomaks, almost all the laborers on this project belong to the Bulgarian labor regiments.

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4. The Krumovo airport is the only military airfield of real importance in Bulgaria. One hundred and fifty YAK airplanes are based here. A few Russians wear the Bulgarian air force uniform, but most are disguised as civilians and are used in training the Bulgarians. The field is protected by a double row of barbed wire entanglements, pill-boxes and anti-aircraft guns.
5. The Plovdiv airport, [REDACTED] has concrete and asphalt runways. The field has equipment for night landings and underground gasoline tanks. There is one battalion of Bulgarian airmen and one for anti-aircraft defense. Sixty Bulgarian and Soviet aircraft are stationed there, as well as 20 training planes.
6. At the beginning of the current year there were 45 Bulgarian labor regiments consisting of a total of approximately 110,000 men according to the Ministry of War.

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